



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS SALVADORAN FUGITIVE, CONVICTED SEX OFFENDER

Had changed his identity to elude authorities; was working as a hotel manager

ROCKFORD, Ill. — A convicted sex offender from El Salvador who changed his identity to elude deportation was tracked down at his job as a motel manager and arrested last week by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as part of an enforcement initiative targeting criminal alien fugitives.

José Perdomo-Perdomo, aka Roberto Martinez, 43, was arrested by ICE deportation officers and Rockford police Dec. 1 at the Sunset Motel where he was working as a manager. Perdomo's arrest came nearly three years to the date after he defied a federal deportation order and became a fugitive.



Perdomo first entered the United States in 1991 and became a lawful permanent resident, or "green card" holder, in 1993. He was convicted in 1995 in McHenry County Circuit Court of stalking and threatening a female victim with bodily harm and sentenced to 24 months probation. In 1996 he was convicted in McHenry County Circuit Court of indecent solicitation and sexual exploitation of a child under age twelve and sentenced to 24 months probation and 144 days of jail time. Due to his criminal convictions, Perdomo was stripped of his permanent resident status and placed into deportation proceedings. He was ordered deported by a federal immigration judge in August 2000. Perdomo appealed his case to the Board of Immigration Appeals but lost the appeal in June 2002.

On Nov. 26, 2002, Perdomo failed to surrender to immigration authorities in Chicago for deportation. He defied the order and remained in the U.S. as a fugitive, thereby becoming a target for ICE's National Fugitive Operation Program (NFOP). NFOP is a new program that specifically targets fugitive aliens—individuals who were previously ordered deported from the U.S and failed to surrender to the federal government, thereby becoming alien absconders.

Chicago's Fugitive Operations team began searching for Perdomo in February 2003 but was unable to locate him at his last known address. ICE officers continued chasing down leads and received a break in the case when they got a tip in July 2005 about a vehicle Perdomo was driving. ICE officers compared DMV records and photos and determined that Perdomo had changed his identity to Roberto Martinez. After receiving another tip that Perdomo was working at a motel in the Rockford area, ICE officers conducted surveillance at local motels until they spotted Perdomo's vehicle at the Sunset Motel and made the arrest.

"ICE was created to restore integrity to this country's immigration system," said Glenn Trivelino, Chicago's acting field office director for Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). "We will continue to identify, arrest and remove fugitives who blatantly disregard our laws and defy the orders of our federal immigration judges." Trivelino oversees ICE DRO in a six-state area that includes: Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Missouri.

Perdomo remains in ICE custody pending deportation to El Salvador.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.